

*"Enriching Lives"***COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES****DEPARTMENT OF CORONER**

1104 N. MISSION RD., LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033

**Anthony T. Hernandez**
Director

October 28, 2006

Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, MD
Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: Anthony T. Hernandez, Director

SUBJECT: REPORT ON HIRING STATUS/BODY ISSUES

As requested by your Board at the meeting of September 5, 2006, this report is an update on the status of hiring of positions allocated to address the body issues of this past summer.

Of the two allocated Coroner Investigator positions, one has completed background, psychological and employment physical evaluation, and is expected to start November 1st. The second is near completion of the background process, and if successful, will be hired within a few weeks. The Senior Forensic Attendant candidate is in place on an acting basis awaiting a promotional examination. The two Senior Typist Clerks were hired in September and October, respectively. The Contract Analyst (Administrative Services Manager II) was hired in late September.

I am very pleased to report that with the positions/resources provided by your Board, and the leveling out of the 20+% body increase we experienced this past summer, the number of decedents at the Forensic Science Center has dropped to 224, nearly half of what was reported during that time. Body congestion has eased dramatically and cases are moving through the system efficiently. Given these results, contingency measures such as overtime and modified work schedules have been eased accordingly, but remain in place as we monitor caseload trends and future fluctuations. The contract for Pathology services continues through the development stages to provide for contingency as the need arises.

National Association of Medical Examiners
California Medical Association-Continuing Medical Education
Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

Accreditations:

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors
Peace Officer Standards and Training Certified

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We continue to utilize the LAC+USC Morgue, as well as outside cremation services, both of which have contributed toward easing the backlog. We are in the process of developing specifications for a dedicated vehicle for the purpose of handling these cremation cases.

The acquisition of a crypt building is progressing. The CAO and Coroner met with HMC architects this past week to review the finalized options and cost estimates for implementation of this project.

The department will continue its ongoing efforts to maintain the efficient and compassionate handling of cases, while it conducts its investigation in determining cause and manner of death. We will also continue our collaborative efforts with the CAO, HMC architects, and others as we move forward with this objective.

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 Chief Administrative Officer
 County Counsel
 Chief Medical-Examiner-Coroner